

SUNDAY LABOUR ON A GERMAN MAIL STEAMER.

It is rumoured in local shipping circles that the agents of the North German Lloyd mail steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain Helms, will probably be prosecuted by the Hongkong authorities for allowing cargo to be worked on board that vessel between the hours of midnight on Saturday the 12th inst. and 5 o'clock the following morning in contravention of the provisions of the *Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance*. It seems that the *Nürnberg* went alongside the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's No. 3 wharf on Friday last, upon arrival here from Europe, and immediately commenced in discharging a portion of her home cargo, after which a certain amount of local cargo for Shanghai had to be taken in as quickly as possible with a view to getting the vessel away at daylight on Sunday. All attempts to get the cargo on board before midnight on Saturday failed, and it is alleged that work was continued up to about 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, after which the hatches were closed, the ship cast off from the wharf and proceeded to Shanghai.

Inquiries made yesterday elicited the fact that no special permit to work cargo on Sunday had been taken out by the agents on Saturday last, or at all, and it is well known to the officers of the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Formosa*, which was lying alongside the Kowloon wharf at the time, that the *Nürnberg* was working cargo up to an early hour on Sunday morning. That is a brief outline of the reports current and we understand a prosecution is certain.

On the other hand there are those to be met with who incline to the belief that the agents were perfectly willing to pay the full sum due for a Sunday permit when they heard on Monday morning that, contrary to their expectations, the *Nürnberg* had not finished working cargo by midnight on Saturday, and that therefore it is reasonable to conclude the authorities will accept the usual fee and let the matter rest there.

We cannot deprecate too severely the adoption of any such temporizing policy as is suggested by these latter theories, for once given an inch the foreign shipowner will not be (and he never is) slow to take the proverbial ell and then he will worm his way, or rather his arguments, in, and before many years pass by the *Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance* will become a dead-letter, so far as the extinction of old-time Sunday slavery is concerned at all events. Why on earth the German officers should be 'let down' so easily, and the unfortunate now deceased owner of the *Formosa*, a British subject, should have been prosecuted vigorously, and mulcted in heavy damages, for committing a very similar offence is difficult to comprehend, and we fancy that the Government will do well to weigh the consequences of pursuing a shilly-shally policy with the stranger that is very much within our gates. It is sufficient, surely, that owners can load bunker coal on Sundays—as Messrs. Butterfield and Swire so often do with impunity—without allowing anybody else to do so. If the law is to be enforced, let it be enforced by the law, and get off *hanging by a hair* by the customary fee, and get *hanging by a hair* found out! If the *Nürnberg* worked on Sunday last she should be fined for it, for in view of the possible if not probable necessity to work after midnight on Saturday, a permit could have been taken out in the usual way. Even-handed justice is what is wanted in this, as in other British colonies, for the law is, or rather it should be no respecter of persons, no matter who or what they are.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MACAO, 15th June, 1892.

Since my last letter affairs have been dragging along here much as usual. On the 9th inst. the Governor received a lengthy telegram from the Minister of Marine and the Colonies, congratulating his Excellency, the Municipal Chamber and the authorities generally on the firm and prudent policy adopted in combating the late Chinese strike in connection with the proposed Samsui Farm, and requesting the Macao Executive to wait for the Minister's *portaria*—the determination of the Lisbon Government—on the matters in dispute.

On the 10th inst. the Procurator (magistrate for Chinese cases) received three of the five supposed Chinese pirates, who are accused of having sailed a Chinese Customs launch and then looted three junks in the neighbourhood of this colony. The other two are still imprisoned here pending the decision of the applications for their extradition that have been made by the Chin-san and Canton authorities.

Early last week a circular from head-quarters was sent round to all the members of the National Battalion, requesting them to muster on Sunday last. The Battalion consisted of 14 officers, 10 sergeants, and 60 rank and file—a complete caricature of a body for national defence, as only about one third were in uniform, the other two thirds being raw recruits and were *sans-façons*. Nevertheless this motley crowd were arranged in battle array, with rifles, bayonets, belts, pouches and all the panoply of war, and put through a short drill in the yard of San Domingo convent, and then marched off to the Bateria de São João where the gallant display, Major Campos, chief of the Military Department, reviewed "the Battalion" and then informed the officers that his Excellency intended disavowing the present guard and forming a new regiment on the Hongkong and Shanghai volunteer system, to be designated the Battalion of Macao Volunteers. The captains of the four companies were instructed to ascertain from the men in the ranks their willingness or unwillingness to respond to the Governor's scheme and to report the result through the acting commander, Capt. Alvaro, to the Military Department. After this the men were marched back to their quarters at San Domingo, where they were addressed by their respective captains on the subject of the formation of the new corps, and those willing to become members were requested to step forward. It is said that not a single man moved from the ranks, so his Excellency will get on in dissolving the National Guard and forming a Volunteer Corps remains to be seen. I have heard that many of the young men are averse to serving on account of the unpopularity of Capt. Alvaro, who is accused of rudeness and incivility to which our Macao citizen soldiers have never been accustomed from their previous commanders.

We had a rather interesting military ceremonial on the 15th inst. at the Cathedral, when the new flag for the Police Guard was consecrated—the first ceremony of the kind during the present generation. The old flag was that of the Prince Regent Battalion and had been blessed some 80 years ago. As usual in Macao at public functions, the Cathedral was crowded. After the consecration of mass by the Military Chaplain, the entire Police Guard were assembled in front of the Cathedral, where the Chaplain, in a long and tedious exhortation, as to the protection of the flag, etc., and then Colonel Garcia, commander of the Police, presented the new flag to the *bandeira*. The guard then

saluted the Governor and, after some further ceremonies, were marched to the Praya Grande, past the Palace, and returned to the general station at St. Agostinho, where they deposited. During the whole of the 15th day, and until the Police general quarters were open to visitors, Colonel Garcia and his officers being suitably in their country and hospitality. From 8 to 12 p.m. the band played in front of the barracks and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed. Colonel Garcia is very much liked and respected by all who know him—besides he is known as a *Militar as Divitis*.

It is recorded that a resolution was arrived at on St. John's Day, the 24th June, 1612, by the primitive settlers of Macao, as a commemoration of the defeat of the Dutch, who attempted to obtain possession of this gem of the Orient earth, and were driven off by the Portuguese. The direction of two Jesuit Fathers, assisted by a heavy storm that came on at an opportune moment and played havoc with the Dutch fleet, St. John should be the Patron Saint and Protector of Macao, and that every year the whole of the population should fast on the eve of the anniversary of the day of victory, celebrate religious observances, and afterwards the day should be regarded as a public holiday. This custom has been annually carried on uninterrupted for 270 years, but, alas, this year, owing to some misunderstanding—it is said in consequence of a minute passed last year by the Municipal Chamber censuring the clergy—the *Lei Senado* is finding obstacles in the way of celebrating the feast day of Macao's Patron Saint. Several official letters are reported on good authority to have passed between Mr. Canelo Jorge, President of the Local Senate, the President of the *Câmara* (Chapter of the Cathedral), and Bishop de Macao, without any satisfactory result having been arrived at; and I am given to understand such a bitter feeling has been engendered that the members of the Local Senate have decided to abstain from any celebration on St. John's Day. I make no comment on this unfortunate dispute, which has caused a great deal of acrimonious discussion here, but will leave those interested to fight the matter out.

On hearing of the suspension of the New Oriental Bank at Hongkong, the Chinese here began to mistrust the notes of the Chartered Bank, and it was with great difficulty on Monday last that anyone could succeed in passing a five-dollar note of that Bank. On Tuesday they refused to take any bank notes whatever, a panic having set in, and I am told that some of the money changers were offering to discount notes at from five to twenty-five per cent. of their face value according to which bank the notes belonged. The Chartered Bank's notes were quoted at the lowest figure, and some of the Hongkong Bank's notes were taken at the Chartered Bank's rate, which were at from twenty to twenty-five per cent. discount. The panic has now subsided somewhat, and as there seems to be no foundation for any alarm, it will no doubt soon pass away.

ALLEGED ATROCIOUS CRUELTY BY A SIAMESE NOBLEMAN.

A NATIVE FLOGGED TO DEATH.

The Siamese authorities are now busily investigating a case which is causing some excitement in native circles, and in which a well-known Phya, educated in England, is said to be unpleasantly involved. Various accounts have reached from native sources painting the conduct of the Phya, whose name we suppress for obvious reasons, in the worst possible light, and proving him to be, if the charges are true, the most brutalized savage in Siam. It is alleged that on the night of May 26th a *mahaduk* was caught in the residence of the nobleman in question, who ordered him to be flogged. Over one hundred strokes are said to have been administered, after which heavy sticks were used, breaking the unfortunate man's ribs. So severe were his injuries, wrote our native informants, that he died on the 31st, the nobleman asserting that the man had hanged himself, though this is denied; and it is stoutly asserted that the Phya, afraid of the consequences, had arranged evidences of the hanging when the man had really died from the effects of a brutal flogging. The *amper*, called in to see the body, is said to have found marks of a severe flogging on the body, and a cracked rib, the neck as if the man had committed suicide. He ordered the body to be buried, but the authorities afterwards caused it to be exhumed and a second examination to take place, with what result we know not. Another correspondent gives us practically the same list of items, with the exception that the deceased was caught in the Palace of the late Regent, and not in the house of the Phya. The flogging and other brutalities are mentioned, and the suicide of the unfortunate referred to as a rumour, the part of the Phya to screen himself from the consequences.

Another version which we have received says that the man had at one time been insane, and that for this reason he was removed from the ranks of the Royal Body Guard and placed in the asylum. Recovering, he was let free and engaged in trade. On the day in question—the 26th May—he had arrived with a boat load of shrimps, and had fastened his boat in the creek behind the Regent's Palace, when a fit of madness came upon him and he entered the Palace. The flogging is said to have been administered in so brutal a manner by the *slave* of the Phya's *mattre d'hôtel* that an old lady, a relative of the late Regent, crossed the creek and, covered with mud, begged the executioners to administer the flogging with less brutality. Although the position of the Phya in question empowers him to administer corporal punishment to his *slaves* in a clause in Siamese law which punishes very severely any master, judge, or noble who may flog a native to death, or flog him to such an extent that he dies within fifteen days after the time of flogging. The man belonged, says our informant, to Prince Damrong and his few articles of merchandise have been stolen, even the ornaments on his arms, on which he set great value, being torn from him.

On the other hand we hear from what we may take to be a reliable source that though the flogging did take place, it was not nearly so severe as represented; and further that the punishment was inflicted in a public place, where any undue severity on the part of the Phya in question would not have failed to draw attention. The unfortunate man is said to have received thirty lashes, neither more nor less; and any further punishment on the part of the Phya in question is indignantly denied. It is further added that at the time of the punishment the Phya was too much engrossed in attending his sick child to devote his mind to the alleged brutalities. We have given the facts supplied us without any comment or colouring; if anything we have considerably toned down the information of our native correspondents, who bring the charge of atrocious treatment of a poor man. We await before further touching on the matter, but should the facts supplied us be borne out by the name of the Phya to the public, and trust that punishment commensurate with the crime will be meted out to the depraved and brutal flogger.—*Siam Free Press*.

SIAM NOTES.

BANGKOK, June 4th, 1892.

There is shortly to be issued a Siamese *Military Review*, in addition to the other three vernacular periodicals, and, in all probability, a *Puffin's Magazine* will shortly see the light here.

It is reported from Nong-Khai that one of the native post-runners came near being devoured by a black bear the other day, but he just travelled fast enough to save himself and the mail.

A dispatch-box and some jewellery was stolen out of the room of Mr. Preston Gibbons, agent of the Siam Gold Fields, Limited, and the Sapphires and Rubies, Limited, at the Oriental Hotel, on Thursday night.

It is gratifying to learn that the prospects of copper—at any rate as far as Antung, some 40 miles above Ayuthia—are very promising. There is plenty of water in the river, and planting is going on with all possible energy.

A few days ago Mr. Stewart caught a crazy Chinaman on his verandah at Kim Ching's rice-mill. He ordered him to be temporarily secured in the stocks, pending the arrival of a constable, but the Chinaman managed to crawl along to the verandah and hang himself with which he tried to split his own skull. He was removed by his friends in a rather critical condition.

Bangkok is gaining a pretty unenviable notoriety just now on account of the influx, during the last few weeks, of some half-dozen Frenchmen and Italians who are generally, and not improperly, regarded as thoroughly bad characters. Most of them, we understand, have been deported from Tonkin by the Government there, and Bangkok has been found convenient as a dumping ground. At least one of them is a murderer, and most are ex-convicts. The rest are beggars—windlows would perhaps be a more appropriate term—who live on the indiscriminate charity of the European community. It is for the Consuls to decide whether Bangkok is to be turned into an Alsatia for all the *forçats* of Cochinchina and the East generally, or whether they shall at once be bundled out as rogues and vagabonds. If the latter is not done speedily it need not be very unexpected if murder is done.

Mr. Hardouin returned on Saturday last, after a year's absence, and has assumed charge of the French Consulate. M. Pavie and M. de Pontbellenger are expected to-day.

An action for \$2,000 damages was instituted against the *Bangkok Times* in the B.M. Consular Court yesterday, by Signor Montebello and one Agostino Celli. The claim was based on a paragraph which appeared in our last issue, in which Mr. C. Preston Gibbons, the other day, has fortunately been recovered, with the documents therein intact. It had been taken by Mr. Gibbons' Burmese servant, and hidden in the brushwood behind the Hotel. The "boy" had absconded.

On Saturday Mr. Louis, of the firm of Becker Louis & Co., Singapore, returned from Chantaboon, where he had been engaged for the last two months. There were about 200 Burmese rubber-millers at work, and as far as could be ascertained, some of them were doing very well, even the poorest being able to make a fair livelihood. Mr. Louis did a little experimental work, and found a number of small rubbers, the gemmiferous ground consisting of patches of alluvial, occurring at a depth varying from two to six feet, over an area of at least fifty miles. The ground was honey-combed in many places, the region evidently having been worked for some time. It is at present difficult to say whether the district is adapted for operations on a large scale, and the adoption of any mode of mechanical treatment will have to be the subject of serious consideration.—*Bangkok Times*.

The many friends of Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Acting Consul for the Netherlands, will hear with regret that he intends shortly to leave Bangkok for an improved position in the Dutch Foreign Office. His genial and many character, united to a graceful and courteous demeanour, united to a respect and admiration by all with whom he came in contact. His success is said to be in Chevalier Koigs who held the same post in Bangkok some few years ago.

The Custom House authorities have, as we hear, put an end to some troublesome questions which have long been undecided as to fixing the value of imports and exports (when dutiable) for duty purposes. And if we are rightly informed the decision is founded on justice and common sense, and ought to be adopted with general satisfaction. The value of the goods in Bangkok is to be taken as the standard of calculation. Merchants and traders will therefore be sure that principle is to be applied to them, and will be better able to judge what will be the exact toll levied upon them, than if the dutiable value were left to be determined by any other less simple or less uniform test.

Within the last twelve months the Post Office has opened numerous post offices in all parts of the kingdom. Besides Bangkok No. 6, six offices have been opened in various parts of the Siam Malay States, Pan Pin, Koh Samui, Singapore, Patibong, Patani, and Yikang; two on the Mekong, Nong-Khai and Ching Kan, and one above Luang Prabang, Muang Ngai on the Nam Ou River. In the Nam Man Valley between Korat and the Mekong, five new offices have been opened, viz. Peema, Lamkon, Ratanaburi, Sisakul, and Osobon, and the Nam Samut in the north and Phelin (Chantabun Ruby Mines) in the South completing the year's record of additional provincial offices. The above information was not received from the Post Office.—*Free Press*.

NEWS AND GOSSIP.

London has 65,000 Germans. Paris has hydraulic railroads. The millidia in England is to be mobilized. London has eighty-four miles of wooden pavement. Soup is dealt out gratis to 8,000 poor in Berlin every day.

British statistics show that miners are not a short-lived class. The cost of building a mile of street-car track in Dublin is \$12,000. Money is plentiful in London. The outlook is for better times in Europe.

The washerwomen in the suburbs of London collect and deliver their linen on the bicycle. A Parisian variety artist lately received the offer of £300 a week for a season in London. The statement of the Imperial Bank of Germany shows a decrease in the speed of *gigacero* marks. The Sultan of Turkey is said to be greatly annoyed at the diplomatic victory of England in Egypt. Mr. Gladstone has consented to address a great London demonstration before the general elections. King Milan of Serbia signed all his rights and good-will in royalty for \$400,000, and

agreed never to reassert in any way his claim to crown.

The Jamaica Legislature has increased the grant for the Chicago Exhibition from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Mr. Archbishop Canterbury practically has declared himself in favor of opening museums on Sundays.

The Government method of Russifying colonists is likely to lead to the wholesale emigration of Germans.

The *St. James' Gazette* is not satisfied with England's appropriation of \$300,000 for representation at the Chicago Fair.

British copper magnates have declined to accept a proposal by American mine owners for a 15 per cent reduction in output.

The brandy distillers of Cognac are endeavoring to prevent distillers in other cities from naming their product Cognac.

Aluminum water-bottles in the German Army have failed on account of corrosion. They would stand water, but not brandy.

There are between 40,000 and 50,000 rag-pickers in Paris, divided into three classes, besides the machine children, who is well-to-do. Mr. Gladstone has an orphanage at Hawarden with thirty-five or forty boys five or six years old, in it, and she gives the lads her personal attention.

A foreign letter says: "Though Wales is deteriorating, and even the language is dying out, there is a colony of 50,000 Welshmen in London."

Of the 193,318 recruits of the German Army and Navy of 1891, the percentage of illiteracy was 54, against 27.4 in 1875, 1.32 in 1882 and 71 in 1887.

The largest German sailing vessel is a four-masted bark, built at Geestemünde. She measures 2,780 tons net and has a carrying capacity of 4,420 tons.

The Austrian Government contemplates taking stringent measures to prevent the emigration of young men to America without having served their time in the army.

Preparations for the proper observance of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus are going forward in Madrid under the auspices of the Queen Regent. Negotiations are taking place between Switzerland and Italy for the modification of the frontier of the Canton of Ticino, with the view of preventing the difficulties arising from smugglers.

A large contract for steel rails has been placed in Belgium in connection with the new Turkish railway to Salonica. This is thought to be an outcome of the recent civil troubles in England.

The Pope, who is eighty-two, wears spectacles only when reading; for ordinary uses his eyesight remains good. He could see better at seventy than he could at twenty, for when young he was very near-sighted.

According to the *Paris Gazette* the number of people in France who died of hunger during the year 1891 was 37,000; the number of persons who went mad in consequence of misery and privations of various kinds was 71,000, and the number of crimes committed was 24,000.

According to statistics just published, the production of gold in Russia in 1890 amounted to 2,406 pounds, 37 pounds (the pound equals 10 Russian or 35 English pounds), compared with 2,271 pounds, 31 pounds in 1889. The increase is said to be due to the development of Siberian gold.

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, is more reliable as an agent in the cure of Consumption, Bronchitis and General Debility, than any other remedy known to medical science. Read the following:—I have prescribed Scott's Emulsion, and have also taken it myself, and can fully endorse the opinion that it is both palatable and efficient, and can be tolerated by almost any one—especially where Cod Liver Oil itself cannot be borne.—MARTIN MILLS, M.D., &c., Stanbury, Bucks. Any Chemist can supply it. A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), agents in Hongkong and China.—*Advt.*

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Today's Advertisements.

NOTICE.

OWING to the state of the weather the CYMRHANA MEETING fixed for Saturday next will be POSTPONED till SATURDAY, the 25th inst. All entries to hold good unless withdrawn by application to Hon. Sec. Additional entries will be accepted up to WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 22nd.

G. C. BENSON, Hon. Sec.

Murray Barracks, Hongkong, 16th June, 1892

FOR SALE.

A SMALL INVOICE OF THE WELL KNOWN H. MUMM & Co's

CHAMPAGNE. In cases of 1 doz quarts, at \$25 per case. do. 2 " plins, \$27 do. SHEWAN & Co, Agents. 1639

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" will be on sale at the Hongkong and Victoria Hotels, opposite the Hongkong Club, and at Pedder's Wharf, EVERY EVENING from 5.30 to 7.30 o'clock.

PRICE TEN CENTS. Copies ordered from the Office will be charged the usual rate—25 cents.

Advertisers are reminded that the *Hongkong Telegraph* has by far the largest circulation of any English newspaper published in the Far East. THIS IS GUARANTEED. Terms on application.

Hongkong, 14th October, 1891.

THE TYPHOON SEASON.

NOW READY.

A SECOND EDITION OF THREE THOUSAND COPIES OF "THE LAW OF STORMS IN THE EASTERN SEAS,"

(by W. Doherty, Director of Hongkong Observatory).

THIS useful work has been re-written and greatly enlarged, and is illustrated by lithographs showing the courses of the typhoons of late years.

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